

Expedited Forensic Analysis Requests

Expedited forensic analysis at the Hennepin County Sheriff Office (HCSO) is available for forensic testing to provide critical investigative information that is time sensitive. Two types of expedited requests are available and will be allowed under certain circumstances, determined on a case by case basis. The criteria below are used as a guide for granting expedited forensic analysis requests:

- Imminent threat to public safety
- Officer Involved Shooting (OIS)
- Major Crime Scene

Note: Final determination will be made by a laboratory supervisor or the Laboratory Director.

Expedited Request Types

Rush Request – a forensic testing request that requires immediate action and completed as soon as testing methods allow.

Analysis will be initiated as soon all relevant information and evidence is available to the scientist performing the examination. Scientists and others may need to extend their work shifts or work normal off hours in order to complete the testing as soon as feasible.

Priority Request – a forensic testing request that has a heightened requirement for completion.

Analysis will be initiated using the sections normal work flow with the exception that the request will be placed in the front of the sections request queue and analysis, interpretation and report generation will take precedence over other requests being processed at the same time.

Evidence

The number of evidentiary items analyzed as part of an expedited request will be limited as much as possible in order to meet the completion timeframe.

Evidence to be analyzed will be determined by the scientists based on a balancing of the likelihood of obtaining a result given the nature of the evidence versus the probative value of the evidence. Probativeness of evidence items will be determined through the collaborative discussions between the assigned scientists, customers, and other stakeholders and/or through available case information from agency reports, crime scene documentation and other reports.

NOTE

- Please be aware when requesting a case to be “Rushed” or made a “Priority” that, in many situations, ALL other cases are put on hold while the rush or priority case is processed by the respective lab sections. This means that testing results for your agency’s other cases and the results for cases submitted by other agencies will likely be delayed, possibly by several days or more, depending on the scope of the “Rush” or “Priority” case. Requesting a case to be rushed or a priority will be highly scrutinized and not generally approved, unless it is absolutely necessary.